

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ann Pokalsky on 27 May 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. Please cancel claims 1-6, 11-24.
2. Please amend claim 8 to recite:

Claim 8. A method of screening for a drug which decreases expression of the $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$ subunit of GABA_A receptor, said method comprising: (a) expressing $\alpha_4\beta_2$ and δ subunits of the GABA_A receptor[s] in cultured eukaryotic cells; (b) applying a drug to the cultured eukaryotic cells of (a); (c) measuring the levels of the δ subunit of said GABA_A receptor from the treated cultured eukaryotic cells of step (b); (d) determining whether the drug applied in step (b) decreases expression of the said δ subunit of said GABA_A receptor[s]; and (e) correlating a decrease in expression of the said δ subunit of the GABA_A receptor[s] found in the treated cultured eukaryotic cells of step (b) when compared to control cultured eukaryotic cells expressing α_4 , β_2 , and δ subunits of the GABA_A receptor population having no drug application, with the identification of a drug which decreases expression of the $\alpha_4\beta_2\delta$ GABA_A receptor[s].

Conclusion

The claim is amended in order to clarify the language.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christina Borgeest whose telephone number is (571)272-4482. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Stucker can be reached on 571-272-0911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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